United Nations S/2005/495

Security Council

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Algeria, Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1333 (2000) of 19 December 2000, 1363 (2001) of 30 July 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1390 (2002) of 16 January 2002, 1452 (2002) of 20 December 2002, 1455 (2003) of 17 January 2003, 1526 (2004) of 30 January 2004 and 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, and the relevant statements of its President,

Reaffirming that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed; and reiterating its unequivocal condemnation of Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden, the Taliban — and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities — for ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts aimed at causing the death of innocent civilians and other victims, destruction of property and greatly undermining stability,

Expressing its concern over the use of various media, including the Internet, by Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden, and the Taliban, and their associates, including for terrorist propaganda and inciting terrorist violence, and urging the working group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) to consider these issues,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, stressing in this regard the important role the United Nations plays in leading and coordinating this effort,

Emphasizing the obligation placed upon all Member States to implement, in full, resolution 1373 (2001), including with regard to the Taliban or Al-Qaida, and any individuals, groups, undertakings or entities associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban, who have participated in financing, planning, facilitating, recruiting for, preparing, perpetrating, or otherwise supporting terrorist activities or acts, as well as to facilitate the implementation of counter-terrorism obligations in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions,

Stressing the importance of clarifying which individuals, groups, undertakings and entities are subject to listing in light of information regarding the changing

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nature of, and threat from, Al-Qaida, particularly as reported by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team ("Monitoring Team"),

Underscoring the importance of Member State designations pursuant to relevant resolutions and robust implementation of existing measures as a significant preventive measure in combating terrorist activity,

Noting that, in giving effect to the measures in paragraph 4 (b) of resolution 1267 (1999), paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 1333 (2000) and paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1390 (2002), full account is to be taken of the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002),

Welcoming the efforts of the International Civil Aviation Organization to prevent travel documents from being made available to terrorists and their associates,

Encouraging Member States to work in the framework of Interpol, in particular through the use of the Interpol database of stolen and lost travel documents, to reinforce the implementation of the measures against Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden, and the Taliban, and their associates,

Expressing its concern over the possible use by Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden, or the Taliban, and their associates of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), commercially available explosives and chemical, biological, radiation or nuclear weapons and material, and encouraging Member States to consider possible action to reduce these threats,

Urging all States, international bodies, and regional organizations to allocate sufficient resources, including through international partnership, to meet the ongoing and direct threat posed by Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden and the Taliban, and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them,

Stressing the importance of meeting the ongoing threat that Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden and the Taliban, and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them represent to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* that all States shall take the measures as previously imposed by paragraph 4 (b) of resolution 1267 (1999), paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 1333 (2000), and paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1390 (2002) with respect to Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden, and the Taliban and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them, as referred to in the list created pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) (the "Consolidated List"):

(a) Freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, including funds derived from property owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by them or by persons acting on their behalf or at their direction, and ensure that neither these nor any other funds, financial assets or economic resources are made available, directly or indirectly, for such persons' benefit, by their nationals or by any persons within their territory;

(b) Prevent the entry into or the transit through their territories of these individuals, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals and this paragraph shall not apply where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process

or the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) ("the Committee") determines on a case-by-case basis only that entry or transit is justified;

(c) Prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer, to these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned and technical advice, assistance, or training related to military activities;

2. *Further decides* that acts or activities indicating that an individual, group, undertaking, or entity is "associated with" Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban include:

- participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of;

- supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to;

- recruiting for; or

- otherwise supporting acts or activities of;

Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban, or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof;

3. *Further decides* that any undertaking or entity owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by, or otherwise supporting, such an individual, group, undertaking or entity associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban shall be eligible for designation;

4. *Decides* that, when proposing names for the Consolidated List, States shall act in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution 1526 (2004) and henceforth also shall provide to the Committee a statement of case describing the basis of the proposal; and further encourages States to identify any undertakings and entities owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the proposed subject;

5. *Requests* relevant States to inform, to the extent possible, and in writing where possible, individuals and entities included in the Consolidated List of the measures imposed on them, the Committee's guidelines, and, in particular, the listing and delisting procedures and the provisions of resolution 1452 (2002);

6. *Decides* that the statement of case submitted by the designating State referred to in paragraph 4 above may be used by the Committee in responding to queries from Member States whose nationals, residents or entities have been included on the Consolidated List; decides also that the Committee may decide on a case-by-case basis to release the information to other parties, with the prior consent of the designating State, for example, for operational reasons or to aid the implementation of the measures; decides also that States may continue to provide additional information which shall be kept on a confidential basis within the Committee unless the submitting State agrees to the dissemination of such information;

7. *Strongly urges* all Member States to implement the comprehensive, international standards embodied in the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Forty

Recommendations on Money Laundering and the FATF Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to increase cooperation between the United Nations and Interpol in order to provide the Committee with better tools to fulfil its mandate more effectively and to give Member States better tools to implement the measures referred to in paragraph 1 above;

9. *Urges* all Member States, in their implementation of the measures called for in paragraph 1 above, to ensure that stolen and lost passports and other travel documents are invalidated as soon as possible and share information on those documents with other Member States through the Interpol database;

10. *Calls* on all Member States to use the checklist contained in annex II of this resolution to report by 1 March 2006 to the Committee on specific actions that they have taken to implement the measures outlined in paragraph 1 above with regard to individuals and entities henceforth added to the Consolidated List, and thereafter at intervals to be determined by the Committee;

11. *Directs* the Committee to encourage the submission of names and additional identifying information from Member States for inclusion on the Consolidated List;

12. *Calls upon* the Committee, working in cooperation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (the "Counter-Terrorism Committee" or "CTC") to inform the Council of specific additional steps that States could take to implement the measures outlined in paragraph 1 above;

13. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing close cooperation and exchange of information among the Committee, the CTC, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as their respective groups of experts, including enhanced information sharing, coordinated visits to countries, technical assistance, and other issues of relevance to all three committees;

14. *Further reiterates* the importance of having the Committee follow up via oral and/or written communications with Member States regarding effective implementation of the sanctions measures and provide Member States with an opportunity, at the Committee's request, to send representatives to meet the Committee for more in-depth discussion of relevant issues;

15. *Requests* the Committee to consider, where and when appropriate, visits to selected countries by the Chairman and/or Committee members to enhance the full and effective implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 above, with a view to encouraging States to comply fully with this resolution and resolutions 1267 (1999), 1333 (2000), 1390 (2002), 1455 (2003) and 1526 (2004);

16. *Requests* the Committee to report orally, through its Chairman, at least every 120 days to the Council on the overall work of the Committee and the Monitoring Team, and, as appropriate, in conjunction with the reports by the Chairmen of the CTC and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), including briefings for all interested Member States;

17. *Reminds* the Committee of its responsibilities as outlined in paragraph 14 of resolution 1455 (2003) and paragraph 13 of resolution 1526 (2004), and calls

upon the Committee to provide the Council no later than 31 July 2006 with an update of the written assessment referred to in paragraph 13 of resolution 1526 (2004) of actions taken by Member States to implement the measures described in paragraph 1 above;

18. *Requests* that the Committee continue its work on the Committee's guidelines, including on listing and delisting procedures, and implementation of resolution 1452 (2002) and requests the Chairman, in his periodic reports to the Council pursuant to paragraph 16 above, to provide progress reports on the Committee's work on these issues;

19. *Decides*, in order to assist the Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, to extend the mandate of the New York-based Monitoring Team for a period of 17 months, under the direction of the Committee with the responsibilities outlined in annex I;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, upon adoption of this resolution and acting in close consultation with the Committee, to appoint, consistent with United Nations rules and procedures, no more than eight members, including a coordinator, to the Monitoring Team, taking into account the areas of expertise referred to in paragraph 7 of resolution 1526 (2004);

21. *Decides* to review the measures described in paragraph 1 above with a view to their possible further strengthening in 17 months, or sooner if necessary;

22. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex I to resolution 1617 (2005)

In accordance with paragraph 19 of this resolution, the Monitoring Team shall operate under the direction of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) To collate, assess, monitor and report on and make recommendations regarding implementation of the measures, to pursue case studies, as appropriate, and to explore in depth any other relevant issues as directed by the Committee;

(b) To submit a comprehensive programme of work to the Committee for its approval and review, as necessary, in which the Monitoring Team should detail the activities envisaged in order to fulfil its responsibilities, including proposed travel, based on close coordination with the CTC's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to avoid duplication and reinforce synergies;

(c) To submit, in writing, three comprehensive, independent reports to the Committee, the first by 31 January 2006, the second by 31 July 2006, and the third by 10 December 2006, on implementation by States of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution, including specific recommendations for improved implementation of the measures and possible new measures, as well as reporting on listing, de-listing, and exemptions pursuant to resolution 1452 (2003);

(d) To analyse reports submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1455 (2003), the checklists submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of this resolution, and other information submitted by Member States to the Committee as instructed by the Committee;

(e) To work closely and share information with the CTC's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the 1540 Committee's group of experts to identify areas of convergence and to help facilitate concrete coordination among the three Committees;

(f) To develop a plan to assist the Committee with addressing non-compliance with the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution;

(g) To present to the Committee recommendations, which could be used by Member States to assist them with the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this resolution and in preparing proposed additions to the Consolidated List;

(h) To consult with Member States in advance of travel to selected Member States, based on its programme of work as approved by the Committee;

(i) To encourage Member States to submit names and additional identifying information for inclusion on the Consolidated List, as instructed by the Committee;

(j) To study and report to the Committee on the changing nature of the threat of Al-Qaida and the Taliban and the best measures to confront it;

(k) To consult with Member States, including regular dialogue with representatives in New York and in capitals, taking into account comments from Member States, especially regarding any issues that might be contained in the Monitoring Team's reports referred to in paragraph (c) of this annex;

(l) To report to the Committee, on a regular basis or when the Committee so requests, through oral and/or written briefings on the work of the Monitoring Team, including its visits to Member States and its activities;

(m) To assist the Committee in preparing oral and written assessments to the Council, in particular the analytical summaries referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18 of this resolution;

(n) Any other responsibility identified by the Committee.

Annex II to resolution 1617 (2005)

1267 Committee Checklist

Please provide to the United Nations 1267 (Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions) Committee by XXX date information on the following individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities added in the last six months to the Committee's Consolidated List of those subject to the sanctions described in Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999) and successor resolutions.

This information is provided by the Government of _____ on XXX date.

YES NO

1. Mr. Doe (Number ____ on Consolidated List)
   - A. Name added to visa lookout list?
   - B. Any visas denied?
   - C. Financial institutions notified?
   - D. Any assets frozen?
   - E. Arms embargo ban implemented?
   - F. Any attempts to purchase arms?

   Additional information, if available:

YES NO

2. The Doe Corp. (Number ____ on Consolidated List)
   - A. Financial institutions notified?
   - B. Any assets frozen?
   - C. Arms embargo ban implemented?
   - D. Any attempts to purchase arms?

   Additional information, if available:

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 45, 53 and 55

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

On 27 July 2005 the Security Council held its closed meeting on the agenda item "The situation in Georgia".

Georgia is our immediate neighbour and the situation in Georgia has direct relevance to the regional security and stability in the South Caucasus. Naturally, this matter is of direct interest for Azerbaijan. Taking this into account, the delegation of Azerbaijan requested the Greek presidency of the Security Council to invite it to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council. Unfortunately, the legitimate request of Azerbaijan was declined without any reasonable justification or explanation, whereas identical requests by other Member States were accepted.

It goes without saying that this action is completely inconsistent and in contradiction to the Security Council practice. On 4 May 2005, the delegation of Azerbaijan, upon the invitation by the Danish presidency, took part in the consideration of the same item at a closed meeting of the Security Council (see S/PV.5174).

One should ask, why did this happen and what was the reason? Was it a manifestation of double standards, lack of experience, abuse of authority or shortage of institutional memory?

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This incident causes great disappointment and indignation, especially at this very crucial stage of the reform of the Security Council.

Will this serve the purposes of "comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more broadly representative, more efficient and more transparent so as to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions and its effectiveness"?[1]

Is this arbitrariness "a practical implementation" of paragraph 127 of the revised draft outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005 submitted by the President of the General Assembly:

> "We recommend that the Security Council adapt its working methods so as to increase the involvement of States not members of the Security Council in its work, enhance its accountability to the membership and increase the transparency of its work"?[2]

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 45, 53 and 55 of the agenda of its fifty-ninth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative

[1] A/59/HLPM/CRP.1/Rev.1, para. 126.
[2] Ibid., para. 127.

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Letter dated 25 July 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1598 (2005) of 28 April 2005, as well as other relevant Security Council resolutions on Western Sahara. In several of these resolutions, the Security Council reiterated its call to the parties and States of the region to continue to cooperate with the United Nations.

Following the usual consultations, I have decided to appoint Ambassador Peter van Walsum (Netherlands), as my Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to help me assess the situation and to explore with the parties, neighbouring States and other stakeholders how best to overcome the present political impasse. As a first step, I have requested Ambassador van Walsum to establish contacts with the parties and neighbouring States to ascertain their views on the best way forward.

I should be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Letter dated 28 July 2005 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 25 July 2005 (S/2005/497) concerning your decision to appoint Peter van Walsum (the Netherlands) as your Personal Envoy for Western Sahara has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Adamantios Th. **Vassilakis**
President of the Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United States of America on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a note verbale dated 26 July 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations stating that Mr. Frank C. Urbancic has been appointed alternate representative of the United States of America on the Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that communication constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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Letter dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark in May 2005 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark (May 2005)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Denmark in May 2005, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues, including Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the Middle East, Iraq and Haiti.

During the month of May, the Security Council held 13 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 9 occasions. It adopted three resolutions and five presidential statements. The President also made five statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 3 May, after its adoption, the President briefed the press on the work programme of the Security Council. The President also held meetings respectively with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, briefing them on the work of the Security Council.

Through its website (http://www.sikkerhedsraadet.um.dk/en), the presidency provided information on the activities of the Council.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 4 May, the Security Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1600 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces, which support it, until 4 June 2005.

On 25 May, the President delivered a statement to the press, welcoming the agreement between the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles on the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion process and on the restructuring of the armed forces, signed on 14 May 2005 at Yamoussoukro. The Council members also commended the South African mediation for its efforts and urged the Ivorian parties to fully implement the agreement, bearing in mind the Council's decisions taken to encourage the parties to pursue the peace process.

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

On 4 May in informal consultations, the Council members received a short briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the status of deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). Deployment was progressing, though some delays were experienced because of logistical and other difficulties. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk, was consulting with all relevant parties in an

effort to finalize the status of forces agreement as prescribed in resolution 1590 (2005) on the mandate of UNMIS.

On 12 May, at an open meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Council on the continuing situation of insecurity in Darfur, on the lack of progress in the Abuja peace talks and the need for international support to an expanded African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). The meeting was followed by closed consultations in which Council members had further discussions on the issues. A formal meeting concluded the Council's deliberations. The President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/18), in which the Council applauded the vital leadership role of the African Union in Darfur and the work of AMIS on the ground. The Council emphasized the importance of increased coordinated international assistance to the African Union effort in Darfur, and expressed the readiness of the United Nations to continue to play a key role.

On 25 May the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who had just concluded a visit to the Sudan and the African Union in Addis Ababa, once again briefed the Council in informal consultations. He outlined four tracks that needed to be pursued in order to achieve lasting peace in Darfur. First, full support — not least at the donors conference in Addis Ababa on 26 May — should be given to the expanded AU mission in Darfur. Secondly, local reconciliation needed to be promoted. Thirdly, the Abuja peace talks had to be revitalized. Lastly, international pressure on all responsible parties needed to be maintained.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 12 May in informal consultations, the Security Council heard a briefing from Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the progress made towards the adoption of a draft constitution and the holding of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Agreement on the Constitution and continuation of the preparation for elections was considered vital to keep momentum in the transitional process. The Assistant Secretary-General also briefed the Council on the latest developments concerning repatriation of FDLR, where limited progress had been made in meeting the benchmarks.

Sierra Leone

On 17 May in informal consultations, the Security Council heard a briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Daudi N. Mwakawago. He presented the twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), in it which it was recommended that the mandate of the Mission be extended for a final six months from June 2005. It was observed that the generally calm political and security situation in Sierra Leone had allowed for further consolidation of the peace process and advancement towards accomplishing the benchmarks for the Mission's presence, but it was also underlined that Sierra Leone was still faced with a number of challenges as it entered the transition phase from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. After the meeting the President delivered a statement to the press, which signalled the intention of the Council members to consider a final renewal of the UNAMSIL mandate and stated that a strong United Nations presence would be needed after UNAMSIL had departed.

Special Court for Sierra Leone

On 24 May, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola, on the progress and completion strategy of the Court. The President of the Court drew particular attention to the issues of funding for the Court, the security of the Court and the cooperation of States in transferring indictees to the Court. The Council then proceeded to a private meeting, at which the members exchanged views on the efforts of the Court so far and possible challenges ahead. After the meeting, the President delivered a statement to the press, reiterating the strong support of the Council members for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and urging the international community to continue to support the Court as it moves into its final stage of work. In the statement to the press the President also expressed the intention of the Council members to consider ways to deal with such issues as security for the Court, and underlined the importance of ensuring that all those who have been indicted by the Court would appear before it, strengthening the stability of Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity.

Guinea-Bissau

On 17 May, the President made a statement to the press reiterating the concern of the members of the Council about the political situation in Guinea-Bissau and reaffirming their support for the country's national authorities.

Burundi

On 23 May, at a formal meeting of the Council, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/19), in which the Council took note with satisfaction of the declaration, signed on 15 May 2005 at Dar es Salaam by the President of Burundi and by the leader of the rebel group Palipehutu-FNL, by which the parties committed themselves to immediately cease hostilities and negotiate without disturbing the electoral process. The Council also urged all Burundian parties to exert greater efforts to ensure the success of the transition, national reconciliation and the stability of the country in the longer term.

Prior to the adoption of the presidential statement the Council heard a briefing in informal consultations from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, on the latest developments in the transition process. She presented the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), in which the Secretary-General recommended extension of the Operation for another six months, until December 2005. It emerged from the briefing that, despite delays leading to the second extension of the transitional period, the Burundian parties had continued to advance on the path of peace.

On 31 May the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1602 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of ONUB for six additional months, until 1 December 2005, called upon the Burundian parties to refrain from any action which might affect the cohesion of the process under the Arusha Agreement, and took note with satisfaction of the electoral timetable agreed among the parties.

Humanitarian situation in Africa

On 10 May in informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council on the humanitarian situation in Africa. He pointed out that the world's greatest humanitarian challenges were all in Africa and that all of them merited more political and financial attention. In particular the long-lasting humanitarian crises in northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur were mentioned, but concern was also expressed about situations in parts of southern Africa and the Horn threatening to re-emerge as full-blown humanitarian crises if no action were taken. The Under-Secretary-General also made a strong call for enhanced funding of the 14 specific appeals for Africa, of which 8 had so far received less than 20 per cent of the requested funds.

Asia

Lebanon

On 4 May, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/17), welcoming that the parties concerned in Lebanon had made significant and noticeable progress towards implementing some of the provisions contained in resolution 1559 (2004), while expressing concern at the determination of the Secretary-General that there had been no progress on the implementation of other provisions of the resolution, in particular the disarmament of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia and the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory, and that the requirements of the resolution had not yet been met.

Middle East

On 18 May the Council heard the monthly open briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, stated that the people of the Middle East were now approaching a number of important turning points, and he expressed hope that recent events in the region would be remembered as a new start on the road towards peace, rather than a slide back into conflict and violent confrontation. Reporting on the meeting of the Quartet in Moscow on 9 May, he said that the discussion, which had sought to review the current situation in the Middle East with particular attention to disengagement from Gaza, had focused on how best to help the parties maintain the momentum at this fragile moment of opportunity. He further said that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank marked an important landmark in Israeli-Palestinian relations, and that continued bilateral coordination would be one way to ensure that disengagement proceeded successfully. The Under-Secretary-General also touched on the situation in Lebanon. After the briefing, the members of the Council held informal consultations.

Iraq

On 31 May, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, and a briefing on the activity of the Multinational Force in Iraq by the representative of the United States of America, Ambassador Anne Patterson. After the briefing, the Council held a private meeting

with the participation of the Foreign Minister of Iraq. In a statement to the press, the President reported that Council members had agreed upon the continuation of the mandate of the Multinational Force in Iraq in accordance with Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) and at the request of the newly elected Government of Iraq.

The members of the Council also agreed upon the continuation of the relevant arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board in line with resolution 1546 (2004). In addition, in the statement to the press, the members of the Council stressed the need for Iraq's constitutional process to be inclusive, participatory and transparent, and encouraged the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq and other relevant institutions to reach out broadly to all segments of Iraqi society, with a view of promoting genuine political dialogue and national reconciliation and ensuring that all Iraqis would have a voice in the drafting of the constitution.

Timor-Leste

On 16 May, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Timor-Leste. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations informed the Council that the March elections had been peaceful, and that the newly created follow-on special political mission, the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL), was preparing to start operations later in May, after the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) on 20 May 2005. The Assistant Secretary-General stressed that UNOTIL would transfer skills and knowledge, assisting with the development of critical State institutions, sending in police advisers and bolstering the development of the Border Patrol Unit.

Europe

Georgia

On 4 May, the Council held a private meeting followed by informal consultations at which the situation in Georgia was discussed on the basis of the quarterly report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/269) and a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Envoy of the President of Georgia for Conflict Resolution in Abkhazia, Georgia, Irakli Alasania, made a statement.

The Council took stock of the recent positive developments in the peace process after the high-level meeting held at Geneva early in April, at which the parties had participated for the first time since July 2003 and had expressed willingness to renew dialogue on priority areas and resume work in relevant task forces and working groups. In a statement to the press issued after the meeting, the President expressed the continued support of the members of the Council for the United Nations, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the Special Representative, with the assistance of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, in the efforts to build the necessary trust between the parties for meaningful negotiations on a lasting political settlement, based on the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)

On 27 May, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Kosovo, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/335 and Corr.1) and in the presence of the President of the Coordination Centre of Serbia and Montenegro and of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Nebojsa Covic. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Møller.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Søren Jessen-Petersen, introduced the report and pointed to tangible progress with standards implementation in the reporting period and a clear demonstration of political will and capacity to maintain momentum in the continuing standards process. He emphasized the importance of the recommendation of the Secretary-General in the report that a comprehensive review be initiated in mid-2005 in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) and the relevant presidential statements of the Security Council, and that a subsequent decision on the status issue would produce much more significant results on issues such as returns, freedom of movement and the economy.

Mr. Covic made the position of Serbia and Montenegro known to the Council, stressing that the cornerstone of Belgrade's policy was that the State's borders could not be changed, and its sovereignty and territorial integrity could not be questioned.

The members of the Council expressed support for the work of the Special Representative and UNMIK, and supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to initiate the review mid-2005 and to shortly appoint a Special Envoy to conduct it. While seeing this decision as an important milestone, they stressed that there was no automaticity as to the outcome of the review process and the subsequent launching of a final status process. The Council urged the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government to continue intensifying their efforts as well as the pace for further progress with implementation of the standards.

Americas

Haiti

On 13 May, the Council held a public meeting on the fact-finding mission to Haiti, conducted from 13 to 16 April 2005 to review progress achieved in areas such as security, development, the political transition, human rights, institution-building and the humanitarian situation. Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg of Brazil led the mission, composed of all 15 members of the Council. Ambassador Sardenberg stressed that free, fair and inclusive elections must be held in accordance with the established timetable, noting that, even though elections should not be seen as a universal remedy to the crisis in Haiti, they were essential to the formation of a legitimate government, thus concluding the political transition period that had started more than a year previously. The members also stressed the need for an improvement in the security situation and the respect for all human rights in the country.

In informal consultations on 25 May, the Council members discussed the situation in Haiti with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés. He briefed the Council on the basis of the report

of the Secretary-General, focusing on the political process and preparations for elections, and he encouraged the Council to meet the recommendation of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

On 31 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1601 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 24 June, with the intention to renew for further periods.

Thematic issues

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 26 May, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding. The debate was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Møller. The Deputy Secretary-General made a statement, followed by the President of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, addressing the Council via video link from Washington, D.C. Apart from members of the Council, 23 Member States participated in the debate.

Prior to the debate, the presidency had circulated a discussion paper on the topic stating that the objective was to discuss the current policy, institutional, and financial challenges in post-conflict peacebuilding with a view to strengthening the coherence and consistency of Security Council action, keeping in mind that the Council is but one of several players in this field.

In a presidential statement issued after the debate (S/PRST/2005/20), the Security Council recognized the complex challenges of modern-day conflicts, and that the response required a coherent and integrated mix of peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities. The Council also recognized the key role played by the United Nations, including United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, alongside the international financial institutions, bilateral donors and troop contributors. The Council recognized the importance of national ownership and regional involvement and underlined the special needs of Africa, welcoming the ever-closer partnership between the African Union, the African subregional organizations and the United Nations. Finally the Council took note with interest of the important proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a peacebuilding commission.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

On 31 May, the Security Council held an open meeting on United Nations peacekeeping operations, at which it was briefed by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, and by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Both speakers provided the Council with an update on the status of the implementation of measures to prevent future cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, as well as an overview of the challenges ahead. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/21), in which, among other matters, the Council expressed its deep concern with the allegations of sexual misconduct among United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and urged the relevant parties to implement the necessary measures to prevent, monitor, investigate and report cases of misconduct.